

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 were pending and under active consideration in the subject application. With this amendment, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 16, and 17 have been canceled, and claims 18-20 have been redrafted to depend from allowed claim 8. Hence, upon entry of this paper, claims 8-15 and 18-20 will remain pending and under active consideration.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 8-15 are allowable. Claims 18-20 have been revised to now depend from claim 8 and thus should also be considered allowable. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that the present case is in condition for allowance.

The remainder of the claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In fact, Applicant wishes to expressly retain the privilege of continuing prosecution of the canceled subject matter in a continuation application(s).

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP No. 6,569,927, in view of USP No. 5,362,572. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's reasons for the rejection. However, solely in the interest of speeding prosecution of the present case, Applicant has canceled claims 1-4, 6, 7, 16 and 17 and redrafted claims 18-20 to depend from claims that have been determined allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that the subject rejection has been rendered moot in view of the claim cancelations and amendments. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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